

legally, rather than being used by people who thumb their nose at our law and come here anyway.

Limited health care dollars should be used for our own people rather than providing unlimited care for illegal immigrants. That is the issue of H.R. 3722. We will vote on it next week. If you agree with me that this money and these resources are important for the health of our senior citizens and for the health of our young people and should not be dissipated on trying to make America an HMO for the whole world, then please make sure that my colleagues understand how their constituents feel on this issue.

I believe my colleagues should be judged on whether or not they are concerned about illegal immigration and they are protecting the interests of our citizens and legal residents by this vote, H.R. 3722. No matter what type of smoke can be blown in the air to try to confuse the issue, it is clear: limited dollars should go to legal immigrants and citizens. I ask my colleagues to seriously consider the consequences of letting this flow of illegal immigration dissipate all of our money available to us to take care of our seniors in the future.

PRISON INVESTIGATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman has presented an opportunity for us to have a vigorous debate next week on the issue dealing with health care for all of us who are in need of health care, and my challenge on the question of separating out individuals who are called illegal immigrants yet paying taxes and hard working is that any failure in the health care system in our communities impacts all of us. So I know we will have a vigorous debate on that question.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today because we have had a momentous week; and I think it is appropriate as we conclude our week here, as we head home to our districts, to pay honor to the many men and women on the front lines of law enforcement; and I work with the law enforcement in my community on a regular basis. We pay tribute to those who have lost their lives defending us domestically and the families of those, the survivors of those who lost their lives. Let me first of all conclude this week by acknowledging that this is the week that we honor law enforcement across the Nation.

I want to thank them for their service, including, of course, the Capitol Police and police that guard this city, and also those who work throughout the Nation.

The week is momentous because for some reason or other when we try to do our duty here in this Congress, we hear the ire and the voices of

politicalization, partisanship and accusations. Some begin to go off of the margin and talk about campaign contributions, things that I myself would chastise and suggest is not the basic crux of why we have asked for extensive investigations on the last week's activities.

It also pains me to note that a Member of the other body would even participate in a hearing to begin to suggest that he is overwhelmed, if you will, with the constant statements of outrage about the abuse of prisoners because he wants to equate the idea of terrorism and what has happened in battle and it is no worse than the fact that Americans are there trying to do good, and of course citing terrible incidents that have occurred against American citizens and wanting to downplay what has now occurred and what the world has now seen as to the abuse of prisoners in Iraq.

I say to that individual that you are not contributing to what America is all about, and that is although we hear many voices and the talk shows are raging, fueling the fires of course of dissent, I know that the bulk of Americans agree that what happened in Iraq in that prison was not American, it was not in compliance with the Geneva Conventions, it was not moral, it was not spiritual, it was not kind, it was not befitting of how America has come to be known in this world. We are promoters of life over death, and we are promoters of peace over war.

So, Mr. Speaker, I come today to be able to clarify, if I might, what we should be doing. I certainly cannot comment as to the credibility of the visit of Secretary Rumsfeld to Iraq because I have not yet been briefed; but if it is to provide a rally, cheerleader-type atmosphere, then it is inappropriate. If it is to reaffirm good soldiers, certainly we must do that because I applaud them as well. But I believe Secretary Rumsfeld needs to come home, and I have already expressed my opinion of his need to resign or be terminated.

But I believe the administration has a duty to go forward with a full investigation into the matter dealing with the prisoner.

Lastly, we must have a complete investigation into the use of women in combat and the sexual promiscuity that is going on, the increased incidence of rape of female combat persons in Iraq, and the question of whether or not nudity and other sexual abuse is proliferating throughout the United States military. I want a full investigation, and I believe we can do no less than to undo what has been done to ruin the reputation of Americans and others.

CONGRESS IS NOT A RUBBER STAMP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today the Committee on International Relations had a hearing on the Iraq transition. Actually, it was not so much a hearing as a briefing. While interesting, the real need for the Committee on International Relations and other committees of appropriate jurisdiction is policy development and oversight. I hoped ours would be the first in a series of oversight on the war in Iraq and the war on terrorism.

Deferring to the administration might have been understandable, if questionable, in the aftermath of September 11, but certainly not today. Congress cannot afford to be a rubber stamp, nor can we continue to rely on the media to embarrass us to action.

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Had we held today's hearing 2 years ago, Iraq, our troops, the world and American taxpayers would be better off today. We would have clarified that the challenge was never to win the battle and remove Saddam Hussein. That was a given, once the might of the United States was unleashed. The real challenge was winning the peace. For that, sadly, the leadership of the United States was unprepared.

I will in the course of the official record submit questions for response from the Department of Defense and the Department of State, issues like the status of the new United Nations Security Council resolution, or getting the international donors to deliver the \$2 billion in outstanding pledges, and whether the United States is going to shortchange Iraq's needs after the transition to sovereignty like we have in Afghanistan.

The most important question, however, for us as a committee and for individual Members of Congress is to see if we can play a role in improving this situation. Can we help the President, who is unable to think of any mistakes, understand, admit and even be candid about where he and his team have fallen short of the mark? Can we provide to the American public real budget numbers as we clearly see now a \$300 billion price tag emerging?

The public demands an open and honest budget process. Can committees make it easier to get rid of the architects of this failed policy? Can we help place less emphasis on the shadowy military contractors and more emphasis on working through the nongovernmental organization community? I would note as an example the Mercy Corps operation, extraordinarily cost efficient and extremely effective in working with foreign nationals in trouble spots around the world. To the extent that we continue to use military contractors, can we in Congress rethink how it happens, clear up the ambiguities in law and policy and to have, finally, rigorous standards for performance and cost accountability? Can we help the administration avoid using artificial deadlines for key governance decisions based on our political calendar in the United States? Can